

February 18, 2021
Maine Milk Commission Meeting Minutes
Held Remotely via Teams
Augusta, Maine 04333

Notices for the February 18, 2021 meeting were distributed to Commission members, intervenors and other interested parties on January 21, 2021 and sent to the Secretary of State's Office for posting on December 23, 2020.

Commission Present: Mike Wiers, Stanley Millay, Colon Durrell, and Matt Randall.

Commission Absent: Richard Cook

Department Officials: None

Staff Present: Tim Drake, Executive Director, Joy Bonenfant, Resource Administrator and Carol Gauthier, Office Associate

Legal Counsel: Laura Jensen

Others Present: Julie-Marie Bickford, MDIA, Gary Anderson, member of the public/contractor, John Blake, H.P. Hood, Sarah Littlefield, Maine Dairy Promotion Board and Nutrition Council, Jenni Tilton Flood, dairy farmer, Christine Cummings, Maine Grocers and Food Producers Association and Mike Benar of Oakhurst.

Chairman Wiers called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes: Colon Durrell made a motion to accept the corrected minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting. Matt Randall seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 2: Laura Jensen, Assistant Attorney General: No report.

Agenda Item 3: Minimum Prices:

Tim Drake reported a prevailing premium of \$1.04/cwt. on Class I for March 2021, Agri-Mark reported no changes for March 2021 and DFA also reported no changes for March. Federal Order One Class I price for March 2021 is \$18.45, a decrease of \$0.34/cwt. He explained that a schedule was prepared using this information plus a producer cost of production adjustment (COPA) of \$1.63/cwt. He stated that this price schedule was for informational purposes and that the Commission was not bound to it, and they should make their pricing determination after hearing testimony.

Chairman Wiers asked for testimony.

Julie-Marie Bickford stated that MDIA was concerned with the lack of stability in milk prices, they have been very erratic of late and it is concerning. There continues to be two things that are stable in the Maine dairy world now, the Milk Commission's Cost of Production Adjustment and the tier program, she urged the commission to keep the COPA at its current level to provide that stability.

No other testimony was offered.

Chairman Wiers asked for a motion.

Colon Durrell made the motion to accept order #03-21 with a Commission premium of \$1.04/cwt. and a COPA of \$1.63/cwt.

Stan Millay seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 4: Maine Monthly Price Survey: Tim Drake stated that he had performed a price survey in all areas of the state as normal. The IAMCA price survey was not available.

Agenda Item 5: Next Scheduled Meetings:

- March 18, 2021, 10:30 A.M., Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME
- April 22, 2021, 10:30 A.M., Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME
- May 20, 2021, 10:30A.M., Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME
- June 24, 2021, 10:30 A.M., Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME

Agenda Item 6: Other

A. **FY 2021 Financial Report**, No discussion.

B. **Cost of Production report**-Gary Anderson

Gary Anderson answered questions from the commission members and from the intervenors, most questions revolved around the report format and data comparison with neighboring states and regions. Gary will review the questions and suggestions and provide an update that Tim Drake will send to commission members and interested parties. Because there most likely will be changes to the report a hearing is now tentatively scheduled for April.

Agenda Item 7: Executive Session: None

Adjourned: Adjourned; 4:32 p.m. February 18, 2021.
Tim Drake, Maine Milk Commission